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ing in both the hill and mesquite areas. These birds, as in the case of the Cactus Wren, build nests in which they roost exclusively. We have one nest which was taken in October, 1914, the twigs of which retain their green leaves at this date—undeniable evidence of its recent completion. They nest from the latter part of April through June.

***Polioptila caerulea caerulea*.** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Very rare in this county. We have not yet succeeded in locating an inhabited nest of this species, but have found abandoned ones, and have observed the birds on several occasions during the breeding season.

***Sialia sialis sialis*.** Bluebird. In May, 1914, a nest containing young of this species was found in an old woodpecker hole in a mesquite tree, about six miles north of San Antonio. This is our only record and the birds were the only ones we have ever observed during the nesting season.

San Antonio, Texas, December 21, 1916.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

An Eastern Record for the Townsend Solitaire.—On February 14, 1917, I observed an adult Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) in the residence district of the city of Fort Worth, Texas. I first saw it fly across the street from the east and alight in a sycamore tree in the front yard of a large residence about fifty feet from the street.

I walked about half way around the tree in which it lit and it flew out and around the house to the south and lit again just across a narrow side street, on the topmost branches of an umbrella tree, near the fence of a large estate. While in flight, the yellow bars of the wings and the white edges of the outer rectrices were distinctly visible, but they did not show while the bird was perched.

As far as my knowledge goes, this is the first time this species has been seen east of the Davis Mountains, in western Texas.—JOHN B. LITSEY, *Fort Worth, Texas, December 10, 1917.*

Corrections.—I wish to correct three errors which crept in during the preparation of my article on "Some birds of central Oregon", in the July, 1917, CONDOR (vol. xix).

The nesting date for the Canada Goose (p. 134) should read June 2, instead of June 21; that for the Wilson Phalarope (p. 134), June 3, instead of June 30; and that for the Gray Flycatcher (p. 137), June 14 instead of June 4.—ALEX WALKER, *Tillamook, Oregon, September 1, 1917.*

Lesser Yellow-legs and Pectoral Sandpiper in San Mateo County, California.—On November 28, 1915, I secured two specimens of *Totanus flavipes* near Redwood City. These are the first and only examples of the species I have ever seen.

I have taken specimens of *Pisobia maculata* near Redwood City as follows: August 22, 1908, one; September 13, 1908, four; September 16, 1908, eleven; October 7, 1915, four. These birds were all collected about the salt ponds and in each instance were found in new ponds, that is in ponds that had had water confined in them for but a short time. The conditions thus afforded evidently produced the proper feed; but a little later, when the ponds become saltier, nearly all the life in them is killed, with the result that the birds do not return the following season to those particular ponds.—CHASE LITTLEJOHN, *Redwood City, California, November 27, 1917.*

The Eastern Kingbird in California Again.—Grinnell's distributional list of the birds of California (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 11) gives two records of the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) within the limits of the state. Only one of these records is based upon the specimen taken—a juvenal male secured at Santa Monica, August 31, 1895, by W. B. Judson. It will be of interest to bird students, then, to hear that a second specimen of the species has been taken, this by the writer, at Laguna Beach, Orange

County, on August 28, 1917. The bird is likewise an immature individual, showing pale margins on the mantle feathers.

The species is not uncommon in Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains during the breeding season; but what is the southward migration route from that region? The regular pathway must make a very positive thrust to the eastward, or else the species would be common in California as a transient. Are these two juvenals, taken more than twenty years apart in the San Diegan Region, just inexperienced navigators who neglected to put the helm hard over as they set forth for the winter home of the species?—LOYE MILLER, *State Normal School, Los Angeles, California*.

Northern Owls Again Visit Washington.—The indications for the fall of 1917 are very much the same as were those of 1916 as regards the migration of two of the large owls.

The Dusky Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus saturatus*) are again very plentiful and many game birds have been destroyed by them. A number of these owls have been killed, all that I have examined appearing to be *saturatus*, though showing a rather wide range of variation. As was the case last year, nearly all of them have been females; in fact I have seen no males at all this season.

One markedly noticeable feature in the Dusky Horned Owls taken this fall is the great luxuriance of feathers. In the made-up skin this is seen to best advantage about the legs and feet, where the hair-like feathers closely resemble a long and heavy coat of fur. Looking over my series of these owls taken in the past few years I can find none that are nearly as well feathered as those of the present season. This may, perhaps, suggest a very severe winter, but up to date it has been about the mildest that I have ever seen here.

The Snowy Owls (*Nyctea nyctea*) have also again put in their appearance, in spite of the summer-like weather. The first reported was shot on the Nisqually Flats, Thurston County, on November 11, 1917. Another was shot in the same locality on November 14. As was the case with the early arrivals last year, the stomachs were empty and the birds very thin, which I think shows that the owls were at a loss what to catch for food. This was my theory last year, when ducks and other small birds were as plentiful as they are now.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington, December 17, 1917*.

September Notes from Keddie, Plumas County, California.—Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina californica*) were several times seen along Butterfly Creek. On September 11 a large flock was encountered. In immatures, at least, the molt was not yet completed, the feathers of the crown being more or less in sheath.

A female Williamson Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus thyroideus*) was taken near Keddie, September 11. This was the only one seen.

Pipits (*Anthus rubescens*) were plentiful on the muddy flats at Smith Lake, altitude 3700 feet, three miles south of Keddie, when I visited that locality September 19.

Pileated Woodpeckers (*Phloeotomus pileatus picinus*) were frequently heard and seen near Keddie. I flushed individuals now and then from their feeding grounds about the bases of old stumps. So engrossed were they on such occasions that I could approach within thirty feet.

The White-headed Woodpecker (*Xenopicus albolarvatus albolarvatus*), like the Lewis, is a woodpecker of erratic disposition, sometimes very shy, again surprisingly indifferent to human presence. As a rule, it was easily approached when feeding among burnt-over timber. Often seen to begin its inspection of a tree at the base, working very deliberately to the first limbs, then a-wing to another tree. Very responsive to the "hand-clap" decoy, and frequently at such times uttering a call bearing remembrance to certain notes of the Brewer Blackbird. None of the specimens taken had fully completed molting; the old and new body feathers were pretty well mixed.

Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia fisherella*) were fairly common, and from some quite young individuals taken I would infer that this is the breeding form.

The Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata fasciata*) was not common during my stay in the region. I saw a single bird about a spring on several dates, the latest being September 26.

Sierra Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus sierrae*) are sometimes forced by the snow

to invade the valley about Keddie, so residents informed me. Otherwise they keep pretty well to the spruce above 4000 feet. Yet a single bird was flushed from a log near my cabin, altitude 3200 feet, September 22.

The Canada Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) was the only nuthatch recorded, and it was everywhere present in the coniferous growth from Keddie upward.

Final dates for some other species are: Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*), September 11; Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*), September 11; Western Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes richardsoni richardsoni*), September 27; Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*), September 15; Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*), September 9—all at about 3200 feet altitude.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Houston, Texas, December 5, 1917.*

The Status of the White-rumped Petrels of the California Coast.—In a careful review of the Leach Petrel and its races, Oberholser (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 54, October 19, 1917, pp. 165-172) concludes that three subspecies of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* should be recognized from the North Pacific: *O. l. leucorhoa* (Vieillot) from the vicinity of the Kuril and Aleutian Islands; *O. l. beali* Emerson, from southeastern Alaska south to Oregon, and migrating "south to the coast of California"; and *O. l. kaedingi*, from the coast and islands of Lower California and southward, and "north probably also to southern California". The *O. beldingi* of Emerson, described from the coast of Oregon, is placed as a synonym of *beali*. Access to adequate material representative of *kaedingi* has enabled Oberholser to properly characterize that form and to establish its membership in the *leucorhoa* series. Undoubtedly Oberholser's decisions in regard to the names in the group will stand. And since all specimens of *kaedingi* actually examined come from south of the Mexican line, that name must, for the present anyway, be removed from the California list, no matter what the probabilities may be.

Oberholser apparently had no white-rumped petrels at all from the coast of California. The present writer is fortunate in being able to offer some supplementary data which show conclusively that it is the race *beali* that breeds on the coast of California, at least to the northward. There are in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology ten white-rumped petrels from the coast of California. Five of these are skins of adults and are listed with measurements in the following table.

| Mus. no. | Sex | Locality | Date | Collector | Wing | Tail | Culmen | Tarsus | Forking of tail |
|----------|-----|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| 7090 | ♂ | Pigeon Pt. Light, San Mateo Co. | May 7, 1899 | C. Littlejohn | 145.7 | 78.0 | 14.8 | 22.9 | 16.9 |
| 21426 | ♀ | Double Rocks, Humboldt Co. | July 4, 1911 | C. I. Clay | 154.6 | 79.4 | 14.8 | 23.4 | 15.1 |
| 21427 | ♀ | Double Rocks, Humboldt Co. | July 4, 1911 | C. I. Clay | 154.7 | 80.3 | 14.9 | 23.7 | 18.7 |
| 21428 | ♀ | near Trinidad, Humboldt Co. | July 16, 1911 | C. I. Clay | 149.5 | 81.1 | 15.2 | 23.7 | 16.5 |
| 21429 | ♀ | near Trinidad, Humboldt Co. | July 16, 1911 | C. I. Clay | 156.0 | 79.2 | 15.8 | 23.1 | 18.4 |

It will be seen from the above measurements, if used in comparison with Oberholser's tables, that California birds in so far as specimens are available are distinctly of the race *beali*, rather than of the much smaller race *kaedingi*. The bird from the coast of San Mateo County, of date May 7, indicates strongly that the white-rumped petrel known to have bred on the Farallones is *beali* also. I know of no specimens from the Farallones now extant in any Museum. Three young with more or less down in their plumage are in this Museum (nos. 16718-16720) taken near Trinidad, Humboldt County, September 4, 1910, by Joseph Dixon, and also one downy young (no. 25526) taken near Eureka, Humboldt County, August 24, 1915, by Franklin J. Smith. The four adults listed in the table as from Humboldt County were breeding birds, as was another (no. 17038) of which only the skeleton was saved.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.*